

ENTOMOLOGY.—*A new genus of flea beetles from the West Indies.*¹ DORIS H. BLAKE, Arlington, Va.

Two new species of a genus of flea beetles that has hitherto gone without a name have recently been collected, one from the region of the Pico Turquino, in Oriente Province, Cuba, the second, the only one of its group from outside of Cuba, from Puerto Rico.

In his treatment of the Cuban Chrysomelidae, Suffrian² grouped under *Haltica* such related genera as "*Graptodera*, *Crepidodera*, *Phyllotreta*, and *Aphthona*" and others. Frequently, under a section head designated merely by a letter, he described, without giving a name to it, a group that did not belong under any of the genera known to him. Such a group is that characterized in a brief Latin description under section *c* (p. 187) of his treatment of *Haltica*. Following this short generic description he described four species, *H. interstitialis*, *clathrata*, *pyritosa*, and *robusta*. Of *H. interstitialis* he remarked that in habit and color it reminded him of a species of *Helophorus*, a water beetle, belonging to a wholly unrelated group. He also compared it with species of *Phratora* (*Phytodecta*) but stated that it definitely did not belong to that genus, being a halticid. In Gemminger and Harold's Catalogue (vol. 12, 1876, pp. 3496-3497) these four species were placed under *Disonycha*. Heikertinger in the Junk Catalogue followed Harold's arrangement, leaving them still in that genus. Except for their broadly oblong oval shape and the short legs with the small spur at the end of the tibiae, there is not much resemblance to *Disonycha*. In fact, they are not very closely related to any halticid with which I am familiar. Their short broad thorax and large eyes suggest some species of *Dibolia* or *Megistops*, but they lack the large double spur at the end of the hind tibia. They have three outstanding characteristics that separate them from any related genera—(1) the peculiar carving of the head, consisting of a deep groove on either side along the margin of the eye, (2) the lobing at the middle of the base of the thorax, and (3) the

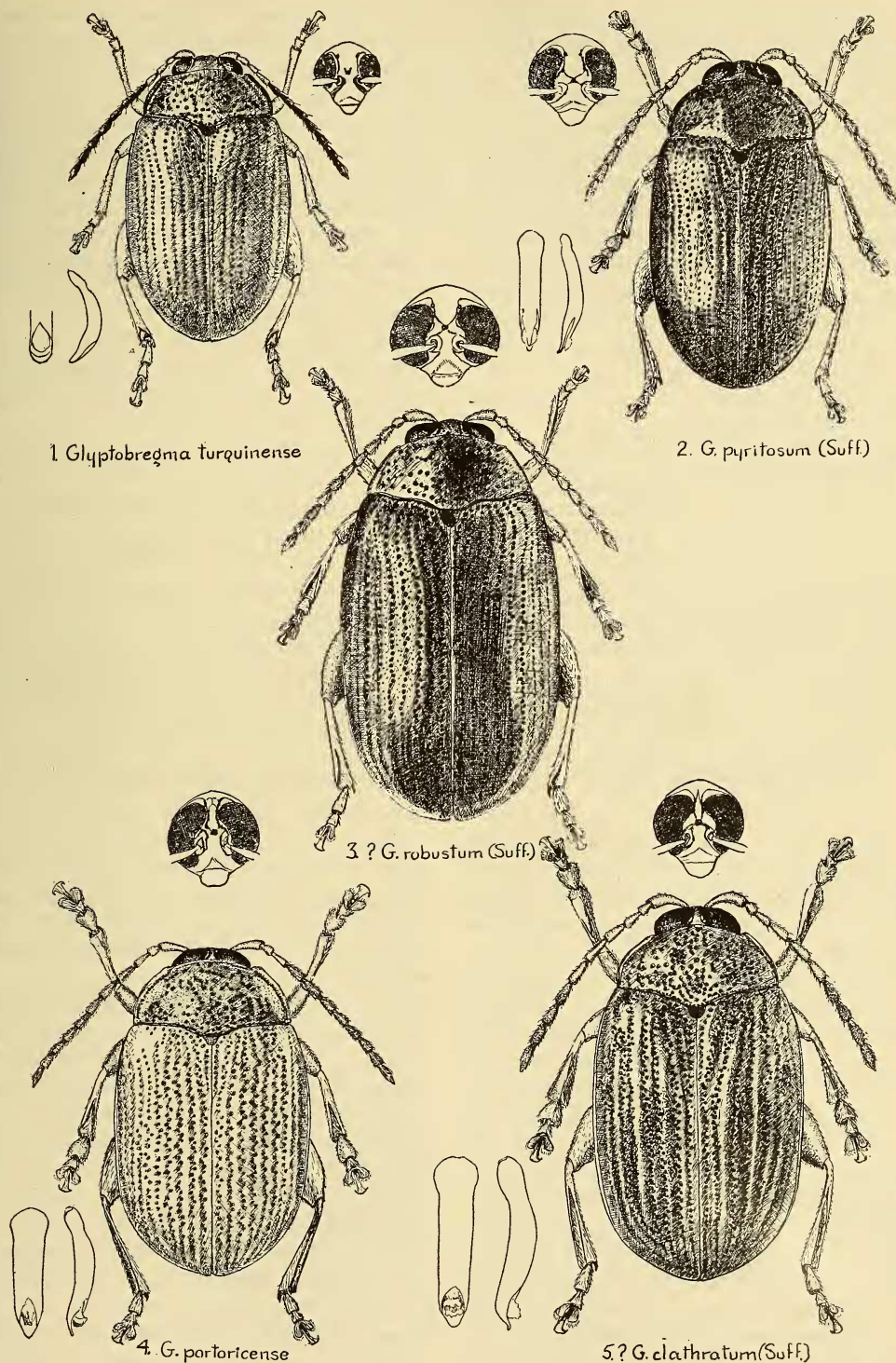
deep, striate, often partially geminate, punctuation of the elytra, which tends to produce interstitial costae. This combination of characters makes these six species unique enough to deserve generic separation. The name *Glyptobregma* is proposed for the group. (γλυπτός carved, βρέγμα forehead). *Glyptobregma portoricensis* is selected as the type of the genus.

Of Suffrian's species I can identify only *H. pyritosa* with complete assurance. The late Dr. E. A. Schwarz identified a series of specimens that he collected at Cayamas, Cuba, as *H. interstitialis*. Suffrian differentiated *interstitialis* and *clathrata* by the difference in development of the elytral costae, which in *interstitialis* were uniform and in *clathrata* (Fig. 5) unequally developed (the 2nd, 4th, and 6th being stronger than the others). In Schwarz's series, which seems to be clearly one species, both forms are found. I have separated them in the key on the basis of Suffrian's description, being unwilling to unite them without some knowledge of the types. I have only two females from Las Animas, Sierra Rangel, that I refer with some doubt to *robusta* (Fig. 3). Suffrian described the species as steely blue with the breast and outside of the legs bluish. These have a bluish luster and are reddish brown beneath without any blue, and they are slightly larger than Suffrian's measurements. Specimens from Cayamas, Santa Clara Province, Cuba, identified as *pyritosa* by Schwarz, agree with Suffrian's description of that species.

Description of the genus.—3-5 mm in length, oblong oval, not very convex. Head with large and in some species very closely placed eyes, a small pit between the frontal tubercles, and on either side a deep furrow extending along the inner margin and in some species around the eye. Antennae not reaching the middle of the elytra, the basal joint long and curved. Thorax, short and greatly broadened behind with the basal margin lobed over the scutellum; coarsely and deeply punctate, the punctures occurring in groups or irregular rows and produc-

¹ Received December 20, 1946.

² Arch. für Naturg. 34 (pt. 1): 176, 1868.



FIGS. 1-5.—*Glyptobregma*, n. gen.: 1, *G. turquinense*, n. sp.; 2, *G. pyritosum* (Suffrian); 3, *? G. robustum* (Suffrian); 4, *G. portoricense*, n. sp.; 5, *? G. clathratum* (Suffrian).

producing an irregular costate appearance, more regular and marked at the apex; a few fine shallow punctures apparent on the sides. Body beneath shining reddish or yellowish brown, finely pubescent. Anterior coxal cavities open. Hind femora thickened, tibiae of all legs shallowly furrowed, hind tibiae with a short spur at the end, claws broadly dentate. Length 3-4.4 mm; width 1.7-2.5 mm.

Type male and 36 paratypes (2, in M.C.Z.), U.S.N.M. No. 58259.

Type locality.—Ponce, Puerto Rico, collected December 30, 1932, on *Quercus thompsoni* by R. G. Oakley.

Other localities.—Bayamon, P.R., July 14,

1934, on *Jasminum* sp.; Orocovis, P.R., October 25, 1932, on unknown tree, and Orocovis, December 22, 1932, on *Quercus thompsoni*; San Juan, P.R., Ponce, September 21, 1933, on leaves of *Tabebuia* sp., all collected by R. G. Oakley. Guanica, P.R., collected by C. M. Matos, July 25, 1914 (Stuart Danforth coll.).

Remarks.—This species closely resembles the two Cuban species, *G. interstitiale* and *G. clathratum* (Suffrian), being of the same pale yellow brown coloration and with a broadly oblong oval shape and very large eyes. It differs in its more irregularly and less distinctly costate elytra. The aedeagus has a more tapering tip.

ORNITHOLOGY.—*A report on the birds collected by Logan J. Bennett on Nissan Island and the Admiralty Islands.*¹ S. DILLON RIPLEY, Yale University. (Communicated by HERBERT FRIEDMANN.)

I. BIRDS FROM NISSAN ISLAND

Dr. Logan J. Bennett during his war service in the U. S. Naval Reserve had occasion to be stationed on Nissan Island, sometimes called Sir Charles Hardy Island, which lies nearly 60 miles east of the southern part of New Ireland in the Bismarck Archipelago. Forty-three specimens were collected in August, October, and November of 1944. Only two previous collections have been made on this Island; by Eichhorn, recorded by Hartert (*On the birds of Feni and Nissan Islands, east of New Ireland*, Nov. Zool. 33: 33-48. 1926), and by the Whitney Expedition. Hartert noted the fact that the avifauna of Nissan is more closely related to the Solomon Islands than to the Bismarck Archipelago. In only four of the subspecific forms of the immediate area is Nissan populated by a Bismarck rather than a Solomon Island form. For that reason the island is usually classified zoogeographically as one of the northern Solomon Islands. It is also listed politically as part of the northern Solomons by the Australian Mandate Administration.

I wish to express my gratitude to the authorities of the United States National Museum, who have allowed me to examine these specimens, as well as to the Bird De-

partment of the American Museum of Natural History, which has kindly allowed me to use comparative material from the Whitney and Rothschild Collections.

In the following discussion all measurements are in millimeters. The wing measurements are obtained by pressing the wing flat against the ruler. The culmen measurements are of the full length of the exposed culmen.

1. *Demigretta sacra sacra* (Gmelin)

Ardea sacra Gmelin, Syst. Nat. 1, pt. 2: 640. 1789 (Tahiti).

An adult male in dark plumage was taken on November 2. This species had not been previously recorded from Nissan by Hartert (*l.c.*) or by the Whitney Expedition (*vide* Mayr and Amadon, Amer. Mus. Nov., no. 1144. 1941), although it is bound to occur on every reef and atoll in the area. This specimen is completing the molt.

2. *Haliastur indus girrenera* (Vieillot)

Haliaetus girrenera Vieillot, Gal. Ois. 1: 31, pl. 10. 1822. ("India"; restricted to New South Wales).

An adult male in worn plumage was collected on October 28.

3. *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (Gmelin)

Ealco leucogaster Gmelin, Syst. Nat. 1, pt. 1: 257. 1788 (locality unknown; = New South Wales).

A male adult taken on October 30 is the first record for the Solomon Islands and represents

¹ Received November 11, 1946.